

Authors ; Kasan Observatory, Catalogue de 4281 étoiles entre $+74^{\circ}40'$ et $+80^{\circ}20'$, presented by the Observatory ; L. Weinek, Photographisches Mond-Atlas, Heft 4, presented by Professor Weinek ; Photographs showing trails of minor planets, &c. (copies on glass), presented by Professor Max Wolf.

The Total Solar Eclipse of 1898 January 22. Final Reports on the Results obtained.

The preliminary reports of the observers sent out by the Joint Permanent Eclipse Committee have been published simultaneously in the *Proceedings of the Royal Society* and in the *Monthly Notices*. The final reports, containing the discussion of results, will appear as a volume of the *Philosophical Transactions*, which will be distributed to Fellows of this Society as well as to Fellows of the Royal Society.

It was suggested to the Joint Permanent Eclipse Committee by the Council of the Royal Astronomical Society that possibly some observers, other than those sent out directly by the Committee, might desire to submit their final reports for publication in this volume. The suggestion was favourably received by the Committee, who have signified to the Council of the Royal Astronomical Society their willingness to "receive and consider any papers on the late eclipse not previously published."

The Council of the Royal Astronomical Society have accordingly directed the secretaries to make generally known this decision of the Joint Permanent Eclipse Committee by inserting this paragraph in the *Monthly Notices*.

H. F. Newall, }
H. H. Turner, } *Secretaries.*

Communication concerning the publication of an Annual Astronomical Report. By Walter F. Wislicenus, Ph.D., Professor at the University, Strassburg.

I intend to publish an *Astronomischer Jahresbericht mit Unterstützung der Astronomischen Gesellschaft* (Astronomical Yearly Report, aided by the Astronomische Gesellschaft). It will give short reports of all the works on astronomy, astrophysics and geodesy, both practical and theoretical, which have appeared during the year. The first volume will appear in 1900, and will contain reports of all the publications of 1899. Not wishing to overlook anything, I should be much obliged if all authors

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of such publications, appearing as single books, or articles in journals not usually destined and used for astronomical publications, would kindly communicate them to me.

Strassburg (Elsass), Nicolausring 37,
1899 January.

Note on Dr. Rambaut's Remarks in the "Monthly Notices" for November 1898. By David Gill, C.B., F.R.S., &c., Her Majesty's Astronomer at the Cape of Good Hope.

I would gladly allow the existing controversy with Dr. Rambaut to rest on what has been written, were it not that in his final remarks (*Monthly Notices*, lix. p. 3) Dr. Rambaut makes no admission of the error of his original conclusion—viz. that atmospheric chromatic dispersion may be regarded as the origin of certain systematic errors which entered into my observations for determining the parallax of *a Centauri*.

It is this conclusion, and this alone, which I set out to dispute. It is the only point of fundamental importance in the discussion, and Dr. Rambaut persistently evades it by introducing discussions and remarks on side issues.

It is but fair to ask Dr. Rambaut whether he *now* maintains that his original re-discussion of my observations for the parallax of *a₂ Centauri* can be regarded as a legitimate one, and as affording evidence of the existence of a term depending on

$$\tan \zeta \cos (p - q).$$

If he does not reply I must conclude that he admits his original explanation and solution to be erroneous.

On a Method of Obtaining Perfectly Circular Dots unaffected by phase, and their employment in determining the Pivot Errors of the Cape Transit Circle. By David Gill, C.B., F.R.S., H.M. Astronomer at the Cape.

One of the chief difficulties in determining the errors of pivots of Transit Circles is that of obtaining a mark which, rotating with the pivot, can be bisected by the observer with perfect certainty in all positions of the telescope.

When the pivots of a transit circle are not perforated, as in the old Cambridge transit instrument, a dot may be engraved on the end of each pivot or upon plates attached to the ends of the pivots, and the vertical and horizontal coordinates of these dots in different positions of the instrument may be measured by a micrometer which is attached to the pier or to